

**BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**January 8, 2004**

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A meeting of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education was held at the Shepard Building - 255 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903 and convened at 4:20 p.m.

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**In Attendance**

J. DiPrete, P. Guida, G. Grove, J. Gaines, S. Duff, C. Callahan

**Public Remarks:**

There were no public remarks.

### **Chairman's Remarks:**

Chairman DiPrete announced that the Regents' Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, January 24, 2004 from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and will be hosted by Fidelity. Chairman DiPrete also told the Regents that the Commissioner would share his ideas for discussion at the retreat along with ideas for topics that the Regents would like to have on the agenda. Paul Harrington, from Northeastern University, would be available to present at the retreat. Mr. Harrington has done extensive work on education and the economic conditions associated with it, and has presented to many constituencies around the state. Commissioner McWalters noted that it has been five years since the last formal strategic plan was formulated and it would be beneficial to revisit the goals, objectives and strategies. In light of the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act, it would be beneficial to assess what is currently working and aligned with those requirements, and whether the strategic plan is strengthening and advancing our work and the goals of NCLB. Another strategy for the retreat would be to take the K-16 agenda and revisit the current literacy focus as a topical approach to the work. Regent Guida suggested listing the priorities of the board and the initiatives of the department, so that there can be an analysis of their alignment. Regent Callahan reminded the board that while prioritizing the work, there also needs to be a focus on the needs and capacity of the districts, along with attention to the capacity of the department. Regent Gaines suggested focusing on the current strategic plan and analyzing the current initiatives to see where they appear, adding that they are embedded in the plan whether or not they are specifically referred to by name. With so much to discuss at the retreat, it was decided that the presentation by Paul Harrington and a number of other presenters could be scheduled for dates to be announced in the future.

### **Commissioner's Evaluation:**

Regent Gaines announced that Sharon Osborne would be setting up appointments next week for personal interviews with the Regents' Evaluation Committee. Labor leaders and administrators are being interviewed along with the Regents.

Meeting with Governor - A meeting will be held at the request of Chairman DiPrete with the Governor on January 14, 2004 regarding the budget.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**MOVED AND SECONDED:** That, The Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve the Minutes of the December 11, 2003 meeting as presented.

**VOTE:** Approved Unanimously.

### **Change in Pre-K Enrollment Eligibility Age Date**

With the recent change in the eligibility date for kindergarten attendance (admission for kindergarten was changed from five years of age, on or before December 31, to five years of age on, or before September 1), Commissioner McWalters explained the need for legislation to align the age of a child eligible to attend nursery school to coincide with the kindergarten change.

### **Face-to-Face Meetings**

Letters have been sent out to the districts and schools to update them on their classification and to inform them as to where they fall in the cycle of intervention. Next steps will be established during the next round of PS&I strategies.

### **Length of School Day Update:**

Four dates and locations have been tentatively scheduled for public hearings on Length of School Day. They will be finalized and distributed early next week. Chairman DiPrete asked that the Regents attend as many as their schedule allows.

### **High School Regulation Guidance Update**

The high school literacy section of the high school regulations was sent out in December, and the regulations for graduation and personalization will be distributed in January. The superintendents association has requested a commissioner's forum to further update and clarify the direction called for by the High School Regulations. This forum will be held on February 12, 2004. Commissioner's Remarks: The public hearings for Rhode Island standards for approval of educator preparation programs and the non-traditional certification program have been completed. Commissioner McWalters announced that they have been adjusted based on the hearings and will be voted on at the next board meeting. The Commissioner also announced that on Monday, January 12, 2004 at 1:00 p.m., members of the New England Compact will give a presentation on high school assessments.

### Executive Session

There was no Executive Session

### Adjourn

With Unanimous consent the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.